

## Amendments to Specification

Please change paragraph 0017, as follows:

[0017] When the separator includes beaten natural pulp of less than 2% by weight, enough effect of preventing a short circuit can not ~~given~~ be obtained. While, when the amount of beaten natural pulp exceeds 15% by weight, the separator becomes too hard to maintain the adhesion with electrode plates. Therefore, beaten natural pulp is preferably included in the separator in an amount of from 2% to 15% by weight.

Please change paragraph 0049, as follows:

[0049] Tearing strength of each sample 5 was measured by the method shown in Figs. 3a-3d. That is, the sample 5 was cut into a shape of 63 mm x 75 mm wherein the direction to be measured for tearing strength is set to be the direction having 75 mm (Fig. 3a) and a cut 5A of about 1/3 of the entire length ( $63 \text{ mm}/3 = 18\text{-}19 \text{ mm}$ ) was made in the sample 5 in the direction perpendicular to the direction to be measured (Fig. 3b). Then, the sample 5 was torn from one side about the cut 5A (numeral 5B designates a torn portion) as shown in Figs. 3c, 3d and the value of resistance during this was measured by "ELMENDORF TEARING TESTER" available from Toyo Seiki Seisaku-sho, Ltd. A relative value was also obtained in comparison to that of the ordinary material (Comparative Example 1) as 100.